



BEFORE THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

**Advisory Opinion No. 03-001
(Item 03-001)**

The ethics law allows a public employee to accept a gift of meals and beverages worth less than \$50 per event from a person who does business with that employee's agency. § 19A-16(d)(1) Montgomery County Code (1994), as amended. A public employee asks if he can accept two gifts cards, worth \$50 each, to a local eating establishment. The gift cards are from a contractor who performs services for that employee's agency, under a contract that employee administers.

The two gift cards have a cumulative value of \$100, which exceeds the limit under the ethics law. Even one of the cards, worth \$50, exceeds the "under \$50" permitted by the ethics law. The employee cannot accept the gift cards.

FOR THE COMMISSION:

Elizabeth K. Kellar, Chair